

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected on the merits and will be discussed below. Dependent Claims 25-31 have been added to provide additional protection within the broader scope of Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 1-11 and 25-31 are pending for further consideration.

The abstract has been revised to address the alleged informality and to correct minor errors.

Claim 2 has been revised to address the alleged informalities.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention intended to be claimed. Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the second sealing portion is bonded to the case.

In contrast to Applicants' invention as now set forth in Claim 1, Maeda teaches an IC card module in which a semiconductor device is merely inserted into a one-piece case. Maeda thus exemplifies a conventional IC card as discussed in the introductory portion of Applicants' specification. Maeda neither teaches nor suggests a second sealing portion which is bonded to a case and which seals a semiconductor device to expose an external connection

terminal, as now set forth in Claim 1. Moreover, the remaining art of record is not seen to overcome the deficiencies of Maeda discussed above.

Accordingly, Claim 1 distinguishes patentably from the art of record and should now be allowed. Claims 2-11 and 25-28, which depend from Claim 1 depart even further from the art of record, but are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to Claim 1.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn and that this application be promptly passed to issue.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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